

News

ARIZONA Department of Revenue

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FILE No.: NR04003

January 29, 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREE TAX HELP "SUPERSITE" OPENS

The Valley's largest free tax help site opens Wednesday, February 4 in the Arizona Department of Revenue (DOR) basement conference room at 1600 W Monroe. The help will be available through the April 15 filing deadline from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Americorps volunteers offer free tax return preparation and free electronic filing of both federal and Arizona income tax returns. This service is designated to help elderly, disabled, low-income or non-English speaking individuals complete their income tax returns.

Volunteers alert taxpayers to special federal tax credits such as childcare, credit for the elderly, child tax credits, and the earned income credit (EITC) and to state credits like the property tax credit and increased excise tax credit. Many of these credits are overlooked by taxpayers who do not seek help. For instance, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) estimates that as many as 147,000 low

to moderate income families in Arizona failed to claim the EITC last year.

"We are pleased that Americorps has agreed to make this tax preparation supersite one of their projects again this year," declared DOR Director Elliott Hibbs. "They did an outstanding job last year helping Arizona taxpayers at our site for which we were very grateful."

Taxpayers should bring all of the following that apply to them:

- W-2s (wage and earnings statements)
- 1099s (interest and dividend statements)
- a copy of last year's return
- Social Security numbers for themselves and any dependents
- Statement of advance child tax credit (The IRS sent you this if they sent you a check last summer.)
- Any other information concerning income and expenses in 2003.

Both spouses must be present to sign the required paperwork if they are married filing a joint return and wish to e-file.

"I encourage all eligible taxpayers to take advantage of this community service opportunity to get their tax returns prepared and e-filed at no cost to them," concluded Hibbs.

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